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Message Text

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13
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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O R 030805Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0399
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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USUN FOR AMBASSADOR SCOTT

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, PO
SUBJ: DECREE LAW ON POWERS OF ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF

1. RECOGNIZING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING WHAT ALREADY POTENTIALLY EXISTED IN THE LAW AND ACTUALLY EXISTED IN PRATICE, DECREE LAW 400/74 OF AUG 29, 1974, GIVES THE ARMED FORCES COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FROM THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT. CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF NOW HAS RANK, AUTHORITY, AND PAY EQUIVALENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. EMBASSY NOW PREPARING DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LAW AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS LAWS ON THE SAME SUBJECT. A PRELIMINARY READING AND THE OPINION OF INFORMED SOURCES SUGGEST THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE LAW FOR US IS THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY IT CONVEYS TO THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF OVER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS OF A MILITARY CHARACTER. WE ASSUME THIS INCLUDES THE LAJES BASE AGREEMENT.

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3. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES IN CONVERSATION

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WITH POL COUNS ON DAY DOLLOWING LAWS PUBLICATION WAGGED HIS FINGER
AND EMPHASIZED QUOTE CONSTITUTIONALLY, I AM THE PRIME MINISTER
OF THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT; THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES
IS THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE MILITARY UNQUOTE.

4. PRESUMBABLY THE NEW LAW WILL SPARE THE COMMUNIST AND
SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT THE EMBARRASSMENT
OF ASSOCIATION WITH CABINET APPROVAL OF LAJES AGREEMENT.
POST

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Type: TE
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